

PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 1984

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRESIDENTIAL FUND TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ABROAD, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

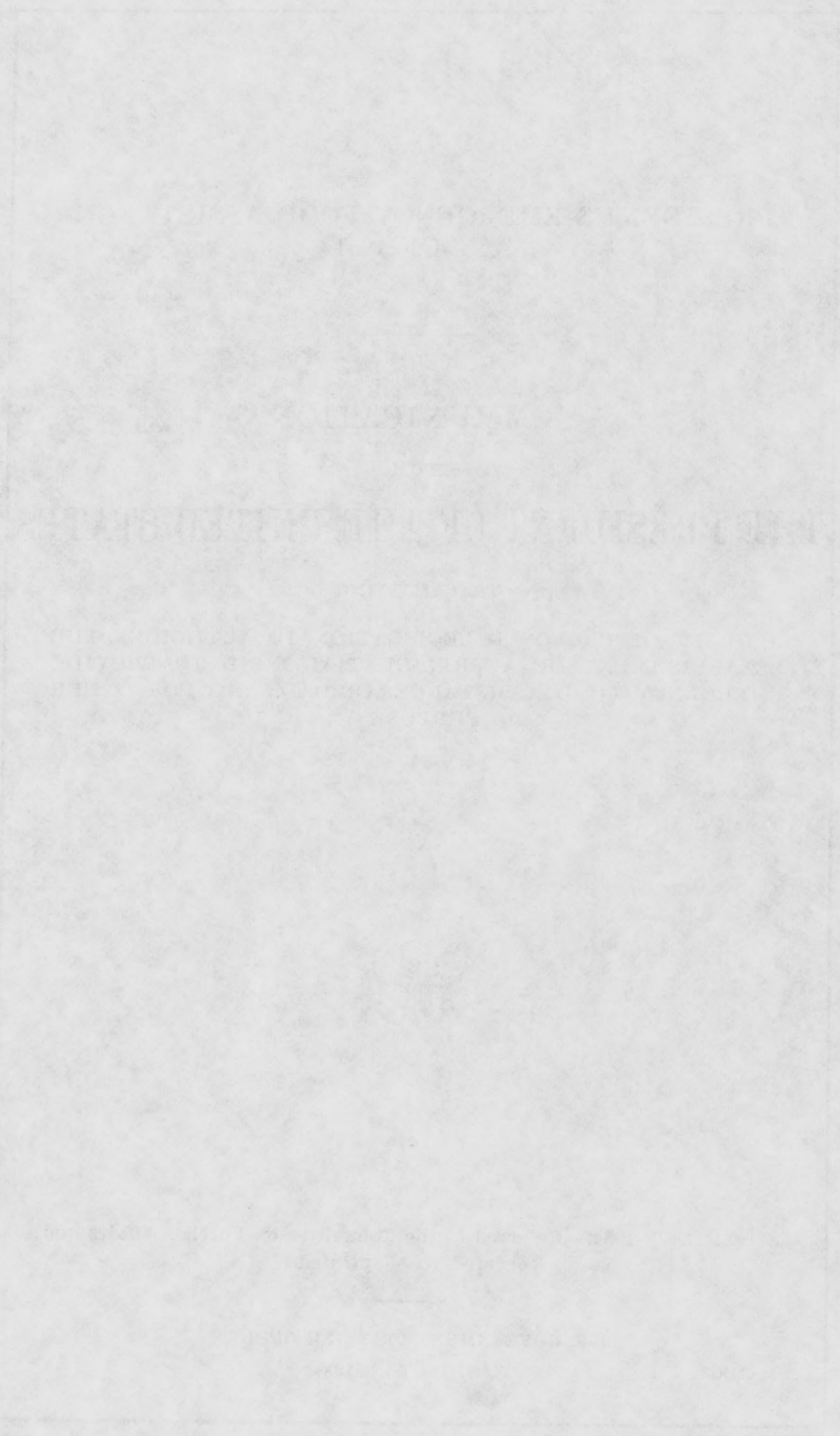


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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, August 16, 1984.

HON. THOMAS P. O'NEILL, Jr.,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am transmitting today proposed legislation, the "President's Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1984," together with a section-by-section analysis and supporting justification.

On July 10, 1984, the thirtieth anniversary of the P.L. 480 Food for Peace Program, I announced a major five-point emergency food aid initiative designed to reduce the suffering and loss of life brought about by acute hunger situations overseas. The proposal I am transmitting today carries out, in part, that initiative by authorizing:

The creation of a special \$50 million Presidential fund designed to provide emergency food and related assistance more quickly and effectively; and

The payment of inland freight and distribution costs under Title II of P.L. 480 in special emergency cases.

I consider enactment of this legislation of great importance and would appreciate your efforts in seeing that it is enacted.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN.

A BILL To authorize the establishment of a Presidential fund to provide emergency food assistance abroad, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "President's Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1984".

TITLE I—PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY FUND

FINDINGS

SEC. 101. The Congress finds that—

(1) Acute food crises continue to cause loss of life, severe malnutrition, and general human suffering in many areas of the Third World, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

(2) The United States continues to respond to these needs, as a reflection of its humanitarian concern for the people of the Third World, with emergency food and other necessary assistance to alleviate the suffering of those affected by severe food shortages.

(3) The timely provision of food and other necessary assistance to those in need is of paramount importance if the worst effects of such food crises are to be mitigated.

(4) The ability of the United States to provide food and other necessary assistance on a timely basis, and to ensure that such assistance is distributed to those in need, should be enhanced in order to better enable the United States to help those affected by severe food shortages.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FUND

SEC. 102. (a) There is hereby established the President's Emergency Food Assistance Fund (hereafter referred to as the "Fund"). Whenever the President determines it to be in the national interest of the United States, he is authorized to furnish, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and on such terms and conditions as he may determine, assistance from the Fund for the purpose of alleviating the human suffering of peoples outside the United States caused by acute food shortages. Such assistance may be provided through such governments or other entities, private or public, including intergovernmental and multilateral organizations, as the President deems appropriate. Assistance provided from the Fund may be furnished notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) Because the effects of severe food shortages will vary with the country or region, assistance to alleviate human suffering may include the provision of food assistance or such activities as the provision of seed, animal fodder, animal vaccines, and transportation (including inland transportation) and distribution services.

(c) (1) Amounts made available to the Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act shall be derived as follows—

(i) the President may direct that funds made available in any fiscal year to carry out any title of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 or Chapter 1 of Part I or Chapter 4 of Part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, be transferred to and consolidated with the Fund,

(ii) there are authorized to be appropriated to the President, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Amounts appropriated or transferred under this section are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) No amount of funds may be appropriated or transferred which, when added to amounts previously appropriated or transferred but not yet obligated, would cause the amount in the Fund to exceed \$50,000,000.

(d) The President may make loans, advances, and grants to, make and perform agreements and contracts with, or enter into transactions with, any individual, corporation, or other body of persons, government or government agency, whether within or without the United States, and international and intergovernmental organizations in furtherance of the purposes and within the limitations of this Act.

REPORTS

SEC. 103. Not later than December 31 of each year, the President shall submit a comprehensive report which details all activities funded under the authority of this Act during the previous fiscal year. Such report shall include information for each instance in which the Fund's resources were utilized, regarding the numbers of beneficiaries reached, the activities of the recipient country and other donors in addressing the food shortage, the current prospects for improvement of food shortage conditions, and the extent to which the United States, the recipient country and other donors are working to minimize the severity of future serious food shortage situations.

TITLE II—FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM

TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

SEC. 201. Section 203 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 is amended by inserting after the semicolon at the end of clause (4) the following: "in the case of commodities for urgent and extraordinary relief requirements, including prepositioned commodities, transportation costs from designated points of entry or ports of entry abroad to storage and distribution sites and associated storage and distribution costs".

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

TITLE I—PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY FUND

Section 101 reconfirms the commitment of the United States to respond to the needs of people suffering from food shortages through the provision of food and related assistance. It also emphasizes the importance of providing such assistance in a timely manner and ensuring that the assistance is distributed to those in need in order to mitigate against the worst effects of food shortage situations.

Section 102 establishes a \$50 million Presidential fund to provide food and related assistance for the purpose of alleviating the human suffering caused by acute food shortages. Assistance from the fund may be provided through governments, intergovernmental and multi-lateral organizations, and other entities, private or public, as the President deems appropriate. The assistance may include the provision of U.S. agricultural commodities, cash for the purchase of local or regional food and other purposes, the provision of seed, animal fodder, animal vaccines, and transportation (including inland freight costs) and distribution costs. Initial funding will be obtained through the transfer of existing foreign assistance resources into the fund; subsequent replenishments will be made through transfer of funds or direct appropriation.

Section 103 requires the President to submit a comprehensive report to the Congress not later than December 31 of each year which details the use of the Fund during the previous fiscal year.

TITLE II—FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM

Section 201 amends Section 203 of Title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (P.L. 480) to allow funds appropriated to Title II of P.L. 480 to be used for the payment of inland freight and distribution costs, including the costs of storage.



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